

## 43rd ASSEMBLY DISTRICT • ASSEMBLY DEMOCRATIC CAUCUS CHAIR

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## Jorgensen: Vos Idea to Triple SeniorCare Costs 'Out-of-Touch"

MADISON – Assembly Democratic Caucus Chair and State Representative Andy Jorgensen (D-Milton) today responded to a recent comment from Assembly Speaker Robin Vos (R-Rochester), suggesting it would be reasonable for Republicans to increase SeniorCare enrollees' fees to between \$5 and \$7 per month in the budget.

"Speaker Vos is truly out-of-touch with the concerns of Wisconsin seniors, if he thinks that doubling – or even tripling – the cost of SeniorCare is something they can just absorb," said Jorgensen. "Many of these folks are just getting by as it is, on their small Social Security checks. They can't afford a hit like this – and they shouldn't have to!"

More than 85,000 people are currently enrolled in SeniorCare, and benefit from the program's simple enrollment process, \$30 annual fee, income-based deductibles, and \$5 co-pays for generic drugs. Most participants save hundreds of dollars each year, over what their costs would be on Medicare Part D, and taxpayers save \$90 million per year through SeniorCare's direct negotiation with drug companies.

"SeniorCare saves lives and SeniorCare saves money," said Jorgensen. "If we're going to preserve this benefit, we have to leave it 'as is' – as the people of Wisconsin want it to be."

Two weeks ago, Jorgensen and his fellow Democratic lawmakers delivered copies of the 13,500 Save SeniorCare petitions to Republican leaders, asking for no changes to the program.

"Republicans continue to try to balance this budget mess on the backs of seniors and Wisconsin working families – and that's just unacceptable," said Jorgensen. "Instead of prioritizing millions in corporate giveaways that frankly aren't working, my Republican colleagues should focus on keeping money in the pockets of regular people."

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